

## **AGENDA ITEM VI**

**UPDATE ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY- NEW ORLEANS**

**M.A. IN MUSEUM STUDIES**

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#### **M.A. IN MUSEUM STUDIES**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In June 2002, the Board of Regents granted SUNO authority to implement its M.A. in Museum Studies (MAMS) program, beginning Fall 2002, with a requirement for progress reports to be filed on January 1, 2003, July 1, 2003, and January 1, 2004. The Board has received and approved all but the January 1, 2004 report. All reports, including this one (the last) are to address five categories of concerns, listed below.

##### **STAFF SUMMARY**

#### **1. Faculty and Support Staff**

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) has provided a schedule of courses and their instructors for the recommended course of study. Faculty credentials and numbers are appropriate. Faculty have been involved in a variety of professional development activities at the local, regional, and national level.

#### **1. Advisory Committee**

The initial meeting of the Museum Studies Advisory Committee (MSAC) was held on October, 2, 2003, on the SUNO campus. The MSAC provides guidance for program development, student recruitment, and curriculum expansion. A schedule of MSAC meetings and topics for 2003-04 was included in the report. Professional affiliations and *curriculum vitae* of MSAC members indicate that they are ideally suited for their responsibilities.

#### **2. Facilities**

Lack of available space for student-designed exhibitions has been a concern for a program with a non-thesis (practical exhibition) degree option. In February 2002, a student exhibit was displayed in the Isaac Delgado Art Gallery on the campus of Delgado Community College in New Orleans. In addition, the MAMS program has established a working relationship with the Fine Arts and Philosophy Department at SUNO to host student exhibits as its calendar permits. The first such exhibit was displayed October 8-28, 2003, in the Fine Arts Gallery, located in the Multi Purpose Building.

### **3. Students**

**Enrollment:** A total of eighteen students were enrolled in the MAMS program in the Fall 2003; eight were full-time; ten were part-time. This is a significant increase over the seven students enrolled in Spring 2003.

**Recruitment:** The success of the Recruitment and Retention Officer for the Graduate Studies Program is evident in the enrollment increases cited above. A brochure as well as a webpage describing the program and its admission requirements have been developed and were included in the report. To increase its out-of-state visibility, the MAMS program was listed, beginning in Fall 2003, as one of Louisiana's Academic Common Market offerings.

**Basic admission requirements:** The faculty has established a score of 1000 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) as the preferred score for acceptance into the program. An admission evaluation form has been developed for use by the admissions committee to assist with evaluation and processing applications. No specific courses are required for admission.

**Assistantships:** There are currently no assistantships available except for "other race" students. The MAMS program is investigating ways to acquire funds to support graduate students in the program.

### **5. Curriculum**

The 36 semester hour program was approved by the SUNO Curriculum Committee in August, 2003. A recommended course of study and schedule of courses for Fall 2003/Spring 2004 were provided in the report. The staff appreciates that the schedule is designed to accommodate working students; all courses are offered in the evening, with the exceptions of MUSE 625-A (*Internship*) and MUSE 695 (*Independent Study*), which are offered in the late afternoon.

In an effort to maintain a curriculum that keeps pace with professional practice and standards, curriculum review will take place on an annual basis. However, innovative recommendations will be incorporated when they arrive, such as the inclusion this past summer of two new courses to the core curriculum, *Writing for Research in Museums* (MUSE 507) and *Research for Museology* (MUSE 525). These courses provide early exposure in the student's course of study to the essential elements involved in successfully completing the program and developing a final project. Additionally, four courses will be available through the Blackboard e-learning system for the Fall semester of 2004. The next curriculum review is scheduled for January 8, 2004.

Internships are arranged on a per student basis, depending upon the particular interests of the student. A Student Affiliation Agreement between SUNO/MAMS program and specific museums has been developed and was included in the report. This document is a formal agreement which lists the goals of the internship and designates the responsibilities for all involved parties.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The University has fulfilled its reporting requirements under the original Board approval motion. The staff agrees that the Master of Arts in Museum Studies program at SUNO is developing appropriately and merits full program approval. With rising enrollment, the staff remains concerned about the relationship between enrollment and available exhibition space for additional students interested in a high-quality non-thesis option. Have formal agreements been reached to make these spaces available? Are a wider range of spaces being pursued? The staff consequently believes it prudent to request that the University report next year on the extent of its formally-established agreements with appropriate exhibition spaces and/or local museums.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the 2003 Progress Report from Southern University at New Orleans Relative to Implementation of the Master of Arts in Museum Studies Program. The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant full approval of the Master of Arts in Museum Studies (CIP 30.1401) at Southern University at New Orleans, effective immediately. An implementation report addressing staff concerns expressed in the staff analysis above shall be due December 1, 2004.***